



ATF News

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
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ATF, STATE PARTNERS SERVE WARRANTS AT OREGON, WASHINGTON SMOKE SHOPS IN CRACKDOWN ON CIGARETTE TRAFFICKING

SEATTLE – Special agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and state investigators from Oregon and Washington served seven federal search warrants throughout the two states today regarding the illegal trafficking of cigarettes, announced ATF Special Agent in Charge Kelvin N. Crenshaw.

Six of the warrants were at businesses, residences and a warehouse throughout Washington and one secondary warehouse was located in Clackamas, Ore.

“Many consider cigarette trafficking a victimless crime,” said Pat Parmer, chief of the Washington State Liquor Control Board Tobacco Tax Unit. “For tribes with Compact Agreements, it takes away money that would go directly to the tribe. For tribes without Compact Agreements, the victims are the residents of Washington who receive government services.”

“Non-tribal businesses deserve to compete on a fair playing field; even other tribes lawfully selling cigarettes have asked for increased enforcement of illegal cigarette trafficking,” Crenshaw said.

No arrests were made, and the investigation continues.

The Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act is designed to enhance the state laws, and gives federal agents the authority to investigate this type of crime.

The joint investigation was conducted by ATF, Washington State Liquor Control Board Tobacco Tax Unit, Oregon Tobacco Tax Compliance Task Force, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Seattle.

More information on ATF and its programs is www.atf.gov.

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